

OPINION

By: Associate Professor Daniela Mircheva Avdjieva-Tzavella, MD, PhD, Department of Clinical Genetics, University Pediatric Hospital, Medical University-Sofia,

Member of a Scientific Jury according to the Order of the Rector of Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" - RD-38-601/16.12.2020

Regarding: The contest for the academic position of ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR in Professional Field 7.1 Medicine (Medical Genetics), for the needs of Medical Faculty, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski". The procedure has been announced in the State Gazette issue 88 dated 13.10.2020. The only candidate for the position is Chef Assistant Professor Radoslava Vasileva Vazharova, MD, PhD.

Short biography and professional experience: Chef Assistant Professor Radoslava Vazharova, MD graduated in medicine from Medical University – Sofia in 1994 with excellent grades. She held the academic positions of "Assistant Professor" and "Chef Assistant Professor" at the Department of Medical Genetics, Medical University of Sofia (during the period 1995-2008), Department of Obstetrics and Gynecology, Medical University of Sofia (from June 2008 to November 2012), and at the Department of Biology, Medical Genetics and Microbiology, Sofia University "St. Kliment Ohridski" from 2012 till now. She has been a lecturer of basic courses for Medical Genetics residents and for students at the Faculties of Medicine and Pharmacy, Medical University – Sofia. In 2000, Radoslava Vazharova acquired a speciality in Medical Genetics. She defended the dissertation research to earn her doctorate degree in 2016. Radoslava Vazharova has attended in several postgraduate training courses in different European countries. She speaks English, German and Russian fluently. She is a member of the Bulgaria Medical Association, the Bulgarian Society of Human Genetics and Genomics, the Bulgarian Alliance for Precision and Personalized Medicine, and the European Society of Human Genetics.

The short biography information of the candidate shows her systemic pursuit of professional development.

Evaluation of the Candidate

I. Basis for Evaluation

Radoslava Vazharova, MD, PhD participates in the contest with 54 scientific publications not included in the procedure for defending the thesis for doctorate degree. The evaluation is based on the following documents submitted by the candidate:

Publications and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases of scientific information – 22 titles, 20 of which published in journals with ISI or SJR impact factor.

Publications and reports published in non-refereed scientific peer-reviewed Bulgarian and international journals – 26 titles.

Textbooks and teaching aids – 2 items.

Published chapter of a collective monograph – 4 titles.

Participation with reports in scientific forums – 44 titles

Total ISI impact factor of Radoslava Vazharova is 36.506, with publications in international medical journals with a high IF such as Clinical Genetics, Journal of Affective Disorders, and Genes, Brain and Behavior. She is the lead author in 3 (14%), second author in 4 (18%), third and subsequent author in 15 (68%) publications and reports published in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in Scopus and Web of science databases.

According to information provided by the National Center for Information and Documentation in the Scopus, Web of science and other databases 208 citations have been found. 207 citations were in scientific journals, referenced and indexed in world databases of scientific information, and one in a non-refereed, peer-reviewed journal.

Radoslava Vazharova has participated in four research projects (2016, 2019 and 2020), which were funded by National Research Fund. One of them with international cooperation.

II. Eligibility

The completion of minimum state requirements for “Associate Professor” in this contest, according to the data presented by Radoslava Vazharova is reviewed in the following table.

Group of indicators	Content	Requirements for “Associate Professor”	Dr R. Vazharova indicators
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A	Indicator 1	50	50
Б	Indicator 2	-	-
B	Indicator 4	100	100 (121.38)
Г	Sum of indicators 5 to 9	200	278.71
Д	Sum of indicators 10 to 12	50	3110
E	Sum of indicators 13 to the end		70
Points		400	3508.71

It can be clearly noticed that the requirements for “Associate Professor” of the Act for the Development of Academic Staff in the Republic of Bulgaria have been met.

III. Areas of Scholarly Interests of the Candidate. Evaluation of the Contributions of the Candidate

The scientific production of the candidate encompass a large spectrum of problems in the domain of the scientific specialty “Medical Genetics” and could be grouped in the following thematic directions:

- Rare genetic disorders – etiology and pathogenesis, phenotypic variability, genetic diagnostics, screening and prevention;
- Application of contemporary genetic testing (arrayCGH, NGS) in monogenic and chromosomal diseases, microdeletion/microduplication syndromes, dysmorphic syndromes, mental retardation and psychiatric disorders.

The predominant part of the scientific publications of Ch. Assist. Prof. Radoslava Vazharova are distributed in the following areas: clinical and genetic characteristics of rare monogenic/chromosomal diseases and dysmorphic syndromes and phenotype-genotype correlations in patients with psychiatric, cardiovascular and neuromuscular diseases and longevity. Her scientific contributions are related to detection of new genetic variants associated with monogenic diseases and practical application and popularization of contemporary genetic testing as SNParray, arrayCGH and next-generation sequencing.

The publications of the candidate in these thematic areas are distinguished by the preciseness of the applied methodological instruments, by the accuracy of the results received, by their analytic and applied science character, and by high practical and scientifically informative value.

IV. Evaluation of the Candidate's teaching

Ch. Assist. Prof. Radoslava Vazharova, took part in the teaching of Bulgarian and English medical students on the Medical Genetics discipline. The annual teaching workload of the candidate is as follows: for the period 2016–2017 – 882,3 teaching hours, for the period 2017–2018 – 444,6 teaching hours, and for 2018-2019 includes 379,5 teaching hours.

V. Conclusion

In the present contest for the academic position „Associate Professor” participates as the only candidate Chief Assistant Professor Radoslava Vazharova, MD, PhD. The assessment of her scientific, teaching and publication activities show contributory character of the presented publications; published research results with scientific and practical value; participation in national and international research projects. In compliance with the Law for Development of the Academic staff in Republic of Bulgaria and the Rules for the Terms and Conditions for Acquisition of Academic Degrees and Occupation of Academic Positions at Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridsky” I support the candidate and will vote positively for the award of the academic position “Associate Professor” to Ch. Assist. Prof. Radoslava Vasileva Vazharova, MD, PhD. in Professional Field 7.1 Medicine, scientific specialty “Medical Genetics” for the needs of Medical Faculty, Sofia University “St. Kliment Ohridski”.



20.01.2021

Assoc Prof Daniela Avdjieva-Tzavella, MD, PhD

Sofia